

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network, and a method and apparatus for network management ~~are disclosed in which~~
arranges nodes in the network ~~are arranged~~ with a specified number of connections with other
nodes by initiating links across the network tree structure to nodes on the same level in the
hierarchical tree. As a result, nodes are linked to their sibling nodes in addition to being linked
to parent and child nodes.